

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-4, 11, 12, 15-17, 21 and 22 were previously pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 15-17 are canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment claims 3, 4, 21 and 22 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 3, 4, 21 and 22 is noted and appreciated.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102 and 103


Claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Okumura et al. (USP 5,700,593). Claims 1, 11, 12 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by JP 10-162338. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Okumura et al. in view of Chang et al. (USPAP 2002/0132139). These rejections have been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 15-17.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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